provided by Reserve Bank of India is as given below:--

Year ended	No. of Accounts	Amount (Rs. in 1000)
For the year ended June, 1996	693	1,13,972
For the year ended June, 1997	1974	2,36,686

DA to Central Government Employees

71. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Employees have become entitled to another instalment of Dearness Allowance w.e.f. 1st January, 1999;

(b) if so, the rate at which the increased D.A. has become due;

(c) by when the orders are likely to be issued in this regard; and

(d) whether the Central Government Pensioners would also be given a hike in their Dearness relief at the same rate?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The instalment due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April and the decision to revise the rates of DA w.e.f. 1.1.99 will be taken well before it becomes payable. Central Government Pensioners would also be eligible for Dearness Relief at the same rate.

Maintenance of Separate Account to Debit Overdraft Amount

72. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is maintaining a separate account to debit the overdraft amount which was not remitted back by the Central Government to RBI before the time stipulated for the repayment thereby clearing the overdraft by mere book adjustment;

(b) if so, whether the similar facility is provided to State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) No such facility is provided either to the Central Government or the State Governments. The transactions relating to receipts and payments of the Central and the State Governments are booked in the respective accounts as they happen and reflect the correct position. The Ways & Means Advances facility and overdraft are meant for bridging temporary mismatch in Government receipts and payments and hence there is no reason to resort to any accounting practices to conceal the factual position.

Applications for projects under IRDP in West Bengal

73. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Bank of India is the lead bank for West Bengal for implementation of I.R.D.P;

(b) if so, the applications received by the bank and projects sanctioned thereof and the number of projects for which disbursal have been made during the last three years;

(c) the ratio of recovery for these schemes; and

(d) the comparative figures of other banks operating in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. United Bank of India is the Convenor of the State Level Bankers' Committee for the State of West Bengal. The bank is also having lead responsibility in 9 districts out of 17 districts in the State. The details of the applications received by the bank and the projects sanctioned and disbursals

made there of during the last three years are indicated below:—

Year	Proposals received	Proposals sanctioned	Proposals disbursed
1995-96	33475	27576	28187
1996-97	27174	23884	24417
1997-98	15190	11013	15405

(c) and (d) Details of the recovery for these schemes and the comparative figures of other banks operating in West Bengal are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Percentage of recovery	
	United Bank of India (UBI)	All banks in West Bengal including UBI
1995-96	35	23
1996-97	33.5	24.6
1997-98	23.26	22.6

Tariff on imports of Steel

74. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise tariff on imports of steel to help the sulking indigenous steel industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In view of the ensuing budget, no details can be disclosed at this stage.

Harassment of Exporters

75. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Ministerr of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints of harassment of exporters by concerned Government authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue collected from Export of various goods during the last three years ending 31st October, 1998; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for stoppage of this harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a), (b) and (d) The Government have been receivng representation and complaints from exporters and their associations relating to delay in clearance of export goods at the port of export, lower rates of duty drawback, delay in settlement of drawback claims and inconveniences and procedural complexities, lack of credit facilities etc., for the exporters. The problem of exporters are examined in Regional Advisory Committees of the Custom Houses, the open House organised by the Export Promotion Councils and remedial action is taken. To expedite decisions an "Export Promotion Board" has been set up under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary with secretaries of other Ministries as members which meets regularly to take decisions on individual issues. The Export Promotion Board takes decision on the problems of the exporters pertaining to all Ministries of the Government of India. The implementation of the decisions, in a time bound manner, is monitored by the said Export Promotion Board.

(c) The revenue collected from export of various goods during the last three years ending 31st October, 1998 is as under:—

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99 Upto October
Net Exp. duty (Rs. Cr.)	0.71	2.21	1.39	1.69
Net Cess on exports (Rs. Cr.)	110.11	135.23	131.40	64.29
	110.82	137.44	132.79	65.98

Global bid for Disinvestment in PSUs

76. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any global bid has been called by Government for disinvestment of its stakes in PSUs; and

(b) if so, for how many PSUs such bids have been called and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) During